

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the Application

Claims 1-16 are restricted by the Examiner.

Claims 1-15 have been elected, without prejudice and with traverse.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application.

1. Election of Invention to be Examined

The Examiner requires restriction to one of Group I (Claims 1-15) and Group II (Claim 16). Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner may have unintentionally left out Claim 17 from either of Groups I and II. Additionally, Applicant assumes Claim 17 would fit under Group II, as Claim 17 depends from Claim 16.

In response thereto, Applicant confirms provisionally electing, without prejudice and with traverse, Group I (Claims 1-15), for prosecution on the merits. Applicant further reserves the right to prosecute Claims 16-17 in this or a subsequent application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction for at least the following reason. MPEP § 803 states that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” As such Applicant